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FIELD DIARY

Mr. *Vernon Bailey*  
*Virginia & North Carolina*  
(Official title.)

Period *Nov. 2, 1931* to *Dec. 4, 1931*

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1931

Nov. 2 - Left Washington by Bus  
for Richmond, Va. at 8:15 AM.

Arrived Richmond at 11:30 and went  
to Game Commission office at Capitol  
building. Saw Mr. Hart, secretary  
of commission and Mr. Hanley,  
in charge of game propagation.  
Also met Mr. Bursley from  
Asheville, S.C., and together we  
drove to Ashland where we  
picked up the local game warden  
~~Edmund Winston~~, and went over  
some of the best deer range in  
Hanover and Caswell counties.  
Visited the Wake School, a large  
colored reform school for boys  
with several thousand acres  
as a wild life sanctuary.

Found deer tracks abundant  
in fields where cow peas and black peas  
were raised and many left as the ground

M. D. Hart, Executive Secretary  
Game Commission - Richmond  
Chas. O. Handley, in charge of Game  
Propagation and management  
Edmund Winston, Game warden of  
Hanover Co. at Ashland  
Julian Spears, Middlethian, Chesterfield Co.  
Dr. Jones, Petersburg, "  
J. H. Birdsong, Desputanta, Va.  
Warden in Prince George Co.  
J. B. Cherry, Hickory, R. F. D. 1.  
In Sissaw swamp. will get deer and bear skulls  
W. C. Rives, Supervisor, McKimney, Va.  
Charles M. Griggard, Sheriff, former warden  
Emporia, Va.

Nov. 3 - Picked up Warden  
Julian Spears at Richmond  
and went over much of  
Chesterfield Co. south of Richmond  
Found much good country for  
deer and wild turkeys and  
several places where deer tracks  
were common and Burleigh  
saw four deer in the swamp  
~~about~~ mouth of Appomattox River.  
Lots of tracks in field of cow peas  
and clay beans & soy beans.  
Last fall 125 deer, mostly bucks  
were killed in Chesterfield Co.  
and there seem plenty of deer  
left. Only bucks have been  
killed for 7 years but there  
is no overabundance of does  
as yet.

Dr. Jones thinks one deer a  
year without regard to sex

Would be better and if necessary  
only one month of open season.  
There are not half enough deer  
and they should be increased.  
He thinks 50 does were killed  
last year and not reported.  
All hunting is with dogs on  
runways and there is no danger  
of shooting men in this way.

The timber and brush are so  
dense that still hunting is  
useless with the present number  
of deer and dogs are justified  
here if anywhere.

Dr. Jones thinks only turkey  
gobblers should be killed as  
there are few turkeys and as many  
or more gobblers than hens.

Mr. Handley suggests raising  
and releasing turkey hens to  
satisfy all the wild gobblers and  
thus increasing the wild stock.

Gray foxes are very common and many fresh tracks were seen yesterday and today. This may account for scarcity of wild turkeys.

The Game department raised and are releasing about 400 wild turkeys this year.

Dr. Jones urges them not to release any gobblers.

Visited The Quail Farm and Mr. Coleman showed us over it. They have a very complete equipment with a modern incubator holding 2000 quail eggs and pens for 7000 quail. They have sold 5000 this year and have 2000 on hand in good condition. Also 6 pairs of game from Oklahoma and 6 mountain quail from Oregon. Also 6 Ruffed Grouse.

Mr. Calman has made  
a complete success of raising  
pobawitis and can produce them  
in any numbers desired.

His hens lay up to 90 eggs and  
125 eggs apiece. One has  
been laying for 8 years

He wants to try sage grouse,  
Mearns quail and California quail.  
I want him to try Franklin and  
sharp tailed grouse and scaled  
quail

Returned to Richmond Hotel  
in evening.

Nov. 4. Started in morning  
for Pinetop George Co. and  
picked up Mr. J. H. Birdsong  
at Disputanta, county warden,  
and took him with us all day  
in covering the country  
for deer. Visited several game  
refuges and struck the banks  
of the James River at several  
points.

Found cypress abundant  
along the river shores and in  
swamps near the river.

Found tracks of many gray foxes,  
one red fox, raccoon, opossum,  
skunk, muskrats and plenty  
of deer.

Found most deer tracks in  
peanut fields where the deer  
were feeding on the stacked  
peanuts or the scattered ground

Peanuts are the principal crop on thousands of acres, and bear well on this sandy soil.

Found a threshing machine in one field threshing out the peanuts. They had many sacks full and were turning out a big stream of peanuts.

They are said to be worth about 2 cents a pound or 50¢ a bushel. Many are fed to hogs and they are said to give the Smithfield Ham its muscade flavor.

Over 100 deer were killed in Prince George Co. last fall and they are still numerous.

Nov. 5. Thursday

Drove through Hopewell to Cabin Point in ~~Prince George~~<sup>Swain</sup> Co. where we picked up Mr. Savage, the local warden, and with him visited several good deer sections near the James River. Found many deer tracks in peanut fields and corn fields and at one point opposite Jamestown Mr. Jones showed us over his place where there were lots of deer in the woods, swamps and a big marsh. The marsh was all tracked and trailed by deer and they are said to lie out in the tall bent grass and three square grass, Scirpus americanus?. Mr. Jones says he caught 250 muskeels last fall in this marsh of about 40 acres.

Came back to Claremont where  
Dr. Spears has many kinds  
of pheasants and about 100 bobolinks  
and two wild turkeys.

Then drove south to Waverley  
and to near Homeville where we  
saw warden Honeyman in  
Sussex Co. where the most  
deer were killed last fall of  
any county, about 170.

He says the deer are still  
abundant but not so many  
as last fall.

He was hauling peanuts and  
picking cotton.

Drove to Courtland and on to  
Suffolk at 9 P.M. and stopped  
at the Elliott Hotel.

Saw many bats at Homeville.

Turkeys, quail and squirrels  
are pretty common.

An owl caught a cottontail in road.

A warm day and very pleasant.  
The country produces mostly  
peanuts, some corn and cotton  
but little else.

Good roads everywhere.  
Sandy and level country and  
most roads hard surface.  
Many fine old places dating  
from colonial times, but  
less of country cultivated  
than before the civil war.

Old places date back to 1607.

A beautiful country that  
should be full of game.

Nov. 6 Friday, Suffolk.

To Portsmouth to get Shirley Hope  
game warden there who brought us down  
to the ditch where we met game warden  
Crawford of Suffolk Co.

Got the local warden, P. Cherry, into  
a motor boat to take us up the ditch  
to Lake Lammont.

About 14 miles where he is the  
care taker for the company that owns  
the swamps and a game warden by  
special appointment, a very fine  
fellow of the rugged type suited for  
such work and with good ideas of  
wild life protection.

He showed us lots of deer tracks  
and trails and told us much about  
the hunting. Has promised to save  
skulls of deer and bear for me  
and also other, raccoon, mink  
and other animals. Says there are  
many swamp rabbits and we saw tracks.

Jerico Ditch & Lake 2 - 11. 1908

<i>Pinus taeda</i>	abn. outside
<i>Taxodium</i>	abn.
<i>Acer</i>	most abundant tree
Sweet gum	abn.
Sour gum	"
<i>Lupinus</i>	" & large
<i>Willy</i>	"
<i>Thuja</i>	" along lake shore, in
<i>Salix</i>	a few
<i>Prunus</i>	"
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	abn. quite frequent
<i>Myrica</i>	"
<i>Vitis</i> 2	" & loaded with grapes
<i>Blackberry</i>	"
<i>E. ...</i>	com
<i>Smilax</i> - 3	abn.
<i>Veronica</i>	com
<i>Galaxaura</i>	"
<i>Lonicera</i>	abn.

<i>Rhus glabra</i>	com
" <i>typhaloidea</i>	"
<i>Azalea</i>	"
<i>Lonicera</i>	"
<i>Phytolacca</i>	abn. & eaten by birds
<i>Malvaceae</i>	com.
<i>Persimmon</i>	a few
<i>Elm</i>	"
<i>Sambucus</i>	abn.
<i>Quercus</i>	"
<i>Ferns</i> - <i>galeae</i>	"
<i>Sphagnum</i> & other mosses	abn.
<i>Mosses</i> - many & numerous	
<i>Baccharis</i>	along lake shore,

Waves so high we could not go on the lake nor see the ducks said to be on it. Water the color of good coffee and good to drink. Picturesque old stumps & trees along shore.

was much surprised to find a *Thuja* along edge of lake as well as abundance of cypress and *Tupelo*. *Gum*. Big shiny *Aralia* is abundant and often 20 feet tall.

Vegetation is dense and wild fruit and berries in great abundance. It is a paradise for bears and deer and other life.

The lake is held about 20 feet above the canal levels and ~~the water~~ by a dam on the ditch and the water can be let out at any time to fill the canals.

Figs are bearing and castor oil plants, *Cannas* and *chrysanthemums* are in blossom and free from signs of frost tho there was heavy frost at Portsmouth last night.

Abundance of grapes on ground that seem to be a small *Muscadine*.

In P.M. drove back to  
Portsmouth, Suffolk, and west  
to Courtland and Emporia,  
where we stopped for the night.

Found there are not many deer  
in Southampton Co. which is  
well settled with no extensive wild  
areas. Could not find George Vicks  
the warden but talked with others  
and got some good information  
regarding deer and other  
game.

Country as usual, dense  
forests except on the cleared  
farms where cotton, corn and  
peanuts are the main crops.  
Soy beans and cow peas are  
much raised for hogs and the  
hogs generally allowed to harvest  
their own crop.

Smithfield hams are made in  
this region and supposed to be their

good flavor to the peanuts  
on which the bugs feed.  
Many thrashing machines were seen  
at work in the peanut fields and  
many truck and wagon loads  
of sacked peanuts were being  
hauled to market.

The price is very low, about  
2 1/4 cents a pound where they  
are generally 3 to 5 cents.

Beautiful weather but chilly  
toward night.

Nov.  
Aug. 7, Saturday  
Waited at Emporia for  
Mr. W. C. Rives of McKinney  
to join us and go over  
some of the counties the  
district of which he is  
superintendent.

We first went into  
Greenville Co. where warden  
Charles M. Griggard took  
us over some well stocked deer  
range in his county, both  
southeast and northwest of  
Emporia.

We then crossed over into  
Linwood Co. where Mr.  
Rives took us over extensive  
forest areas well stocked with  
deer and with a few wild turkeys  
and quail. Both sides of the  
Notaway River are covered with  
great forests valuable for both game  
and lumber.

Heavy frost in morning but  
very pleasant day as it has  
been on the whole trip.

Much of this land could  
be bought for 4 or 8 dollars  
an acre with standing  
timber enough to pay for it  
and still leave a good  
young growth for game cover.  
Some excellent refuges  
could be found in this  
part of the state if there  
were available funds to pay  
for them.

Left Mr. Rives at Se Witt  
at 5 PM and reached Petersburg  
at 5:30, in time for Burlington  
to catch a train home to  
Ashville, N.C. Mr. Handley  
and I came on to Richmond  
where I stopped for the night  
at The Richmond Hotel while  
Handley went on to his home in  
Ashland, some 14 miles to the north.

Nov. 8 Sunday,

Wrote all day as fast as I could on my report and finished the parts on deer and bear. Will have to stay till Monday morning to see Mr. Hart and talk over the game situation with him.

Another beautiful day.

Nov. 28, 1931

Started for Asheville  
North Carolina with the three  
beavers from Victor Evans'  
Acclimation Park for the  
Pisgah National Forest and  
Game Refuge.

Had much trouble in catching  
them as they had dug far under  
the hill and under the road  
but were finally cornered  
in their old board house.

The upper incisors of the  
two original young from  
Pennsylvania were so long  
from lack of any wood to eat  
that they had to be sawed off  
so they could eat.

Nov. 29 Sunday.

Arrived at Ashville 8:20  
am and went to Battery Park  
Hotel. Was met by Tom  
Burlingame and Dick Hildebrand  
at train and we went to the  
Forest Supervisors office,  
Mr. Mattoon, and with  
him inspected the ponds  
on Paint Creek but our  
had been emptied and the  
other was to be soon for the  
winter.

Examined the creek for places  
to put the beavers but did  
not find any very good  
place where they would  
stay without fencing,  
so drove over to the  
Beltmore Place where they  
have some good ponds on  
their Game Refuge.

Picked out the Bear  
Pond of about 6 acres as  
the best place and built  
a beaver house on the  
island and put the beavers  
in it. When they came  
out they were not frightened  
and explored about quietly  
and seemed to like the  
pond and the abundant  
food of sedges, grass,  
and small brush.

The place is nearer to  
Ashville than was the  
one on Pisga and the  
beavers will be well protected.  
Mr. Cuyil was much  
interested and offered all  
the help and cooperation  
possible in caring for  
and studying them and  
gives them the freedom

of his 30 000 all places  
all all times of day or night  
When the beaver increase  
they will be plenty for all  
the ponds and streams about  
me but as they are  
all females they will not  
increase much until we  
get a male to put with  
them.

Drove over the Bitterroot  
place before dark and saw  
about 200 deer and one  
flock of a dozen wild  
Turkeys. Dick Hildebrand  
shot one for a specimen for  
Burlingame and offered to get  
him a deer or anything  
he wanted.

Saw two gray foxes that  
had been caught in steel  
traps and were quite tame.  
Their eyes at midday showed  
very narrow slits of the vertical  
pupils, narrower than a cat's  
eyes. In one the iris was  
dark brown, in the other a  
yellowish gray or dull greenish  
color.

Nov. 30 Monday,

Went up Mt. Mitchell  
with Sunlight & Mr. Featherman  
and saw some of the country  
in spite of a rainy day.

Fairly good road nearly to  
top and some camps up near  
the summit.

Many trees & bushes new  
to me and a real Canadian  
Zone Cap to the mountain.

Saw a red squirrel and a few  
Ruffed grouse. Lots of mouse  
sign, some mules & horses.

Snowshoe rabbits appear to be  
on top of the mountain and  
Sunlight will try to get us some.

Some bears are killed on the  
mountain each year and many  
deer.

Back to Ashrill in time to  
catch a 5:30 train for  
Richmond Virginia.  
Had to change cars at

J. C. Wall,  
Supt. State Game Farm at  
Boulevard, Va.

~~Nov. 30~~ - Arrived in  
Richmond, Virginia at 8:15  
AM and went to the Game  
Commission. Mr. Charles  
Handley took me out to the  
State Game Farm in afternoon  
where I saw three tamed deer  
tame wild turkeys and a lot of  
the 3500 bobwhites raised  
in pens last summer.  
Got one doe skull and made  
a catchall trap for getting  
mink and weasels and skunks as  
well as cats and coons and  
rats around the quail and  
pheasant pens.

Back to Richmond for the  
night but made arrangements  
by telephone for a deer hunt  
tomorrow.

Dec. 2, Wednesday -

Took 8 AM bus for McKinney where I joined Game Supervisor W.C. Rives on a deer hunt.

He had out 17 men and two packs of hounds in a big timber and swamp country where deer tracks were common.

The men with shot guns were scattered out along old wood roads for a mile or more and one man put out the dogs. Three deer were jumped but no one got a shot.

Saw a few deer tracks, a few gray fox and one turkey track. No other game except cottontail tracks.

A cold but pleasant day.

Returned to Richmond in evening.

Dec. 23

Took bus for Washington  
at 8:30 AM & arrived at noon.  
Cool and pleasant.

Dec. 30 Wednesday,

Left Washington 3:05 PM for Harrisburg, Pa. to select a male beaver to add to the 3 females placed on the Bultman Estate a month ago.

Dr. Winneoff has arranged for a trip to get the beaver in morning.

Got a pleasant room in the Penn Harris Hotel, 709, at \$2:50 without bath but hot and cold water & toilet, and all modern equipment.

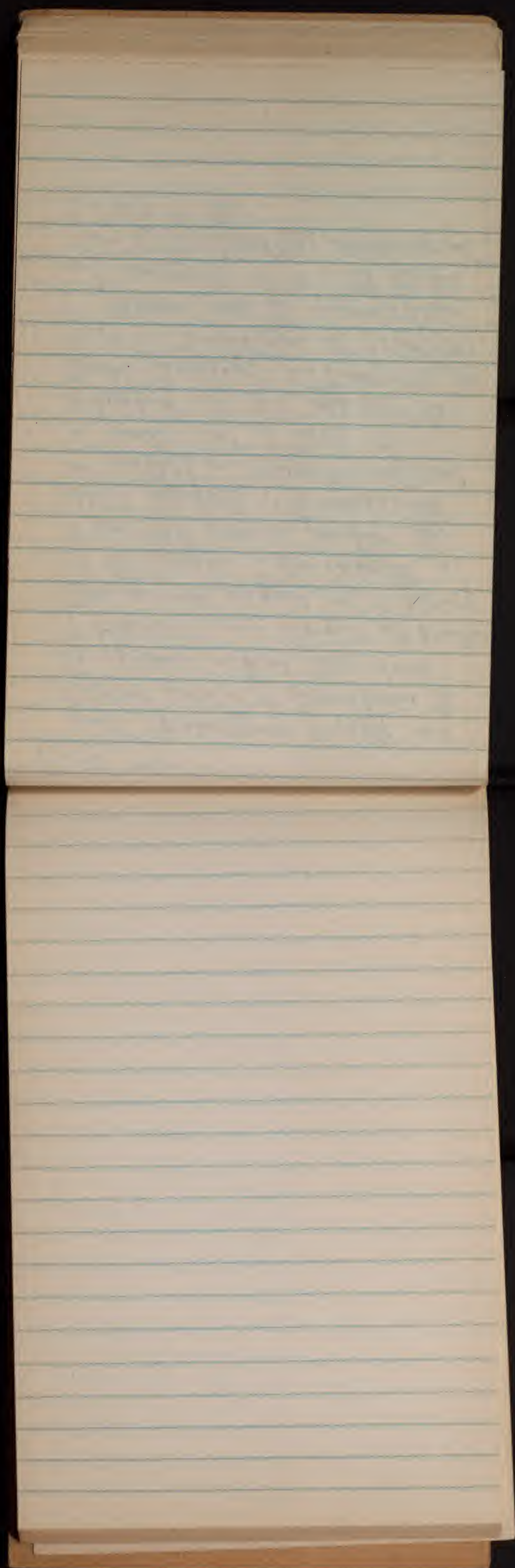
A pleasant day and no snow.

Dec. 31

Left Harrisburg 9 AM and drove west of Lewistown to the place where they took 7 beavers in boxes & crates, two good sized and 5 young of the year. The largest, a 3 year old was a female. The next largest, a two year old or rather a 19 months old, was a male and I took it.

Shipped it by express to Town Burleigh at Asheville, N.C. from Lewistown at 1:20 PM.

Drove back to Harrisburg and caught 3:18 PM train for Washington, arriving at 6:40 PM.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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WASHINGTON.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Biological Survey.

*Odontaspilus virginianus*

Fairly abundant in the low  
country of Virginia southeast of  
Richmond.



